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ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND AND FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 August 1991, at 11.30 a.m.

President:	Mr. AYALA LASSO	(Ecuador)
Members:	Austria	Mr. HAJNOCZI
	Belgium	Mr. van DAELE
	China	Mr. WANG Guangya
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. SERY
	Cuba	Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA
	France	Mr. ROCHEREAU DE LA SABLIERE
	India	Mr. GHAREKHAN
	Romania	Mr. FLOREAN
	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Mr. LOZINSKY
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir David HANNAY
	United States of America	Mr. WATSON
	Yemen	Mr. AL-ASHTAL
	Zaire	Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI
	Zimbabwe	Mr. MUMBENGEGWI

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91-61125/A 5617V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

DATE OF AN ELECTION TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (S/22959)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Spanish): The Security Council will now begin consideration of the item on its agenda. It is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/22959, which contains a note dated 16 August 1991 by the Secretary-General concerning the date of an election to fill a vacancy in the International Court of Justice.

Members of the Security Council will have had an opportunity to study document S/22959, which explains the need for this agenda item. The recent death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias on 14 August 1991 has created a vacancy on the International Court of Justice that has to be filled.

Judge Taslim Olawale Elias, a member and former President and Vice-President of the International Court of Justice, was a distinguished diplomat and a great jurist. He represented the Government of Nigeria at many important meetings and conferences of the United Nations. He was a member and Chairman of the United Nations International Law Commission and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole at the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties. He was also a member of the Expert Committee that drafted the Charter of the Organization of African Unity in 1963.

Moreover, he was the editor of the Nigerian Law Journal, a lecturer at the Academy of International Law at The Hague and the author of numerous publications and articles on international and legal questions. He was the holder of many honorary degrees, not only in Laws, but also in Letters and in Science.

(The President)

Judge Taslim Olawale Elias was indeed a most distinguished international lawyer and scholar, and an eminent judge. His loss has been deeply felt by the Government and the people of Nigeria, the International Court of Justice and the international community as a whole. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of all the members of the Council in extending sincere condolences to the President of the Court, to the Government of Nigeria and to the bereaved family of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias.

Judge Elias was elected as a member of the International Court of Justice for a term of nine years as from 6 February 1976. He was re-elected as from 6 February 1985 for a further period of nine years. His term of office would have expired on 5 February 1994.

(The President)

Under Article 14 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the Security Council is to fix the date for the election to fill the vacancy in the Court. As I reported to members during our prior consultations on this matter, the election could take place on 5 December 1991 at a meeting of the Security Council and at a meeting of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Members of the Council have before them in document S/22984 the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's consultations. May I take it that the Council is ready to take a decision on the draft resolution?

There being no objection, it is so decided.

In light of the consultations which I have held, it is my understanding that the Council is ready to adopt unanimously the draft resolution contained in document S/22984.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The draft resolution is adopted unanimously as resolution 708 (1991).

The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.